

Astro News

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"Forging the shape of military space for the 21st century"

Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif., July 13, 2001

Det. 12 activates as SMC moves closer to realignment

Kirtland AFB assets merged into single local command

By Peggy Hodge Public Affairs

"Today is an important day," said Space and Missile Systems Center commander Lt. Gen. Brian Arnold, as he officiated at an activation ceremony of Detachment 12 at Kirtland AFB, N.M. June 29. The detachment activated to align several of SMC's subordinate units under a local command to prepare for the Oct. 1 realignment of SMC under Air Force Space Command.

Activation of Det. 12 "reflects a lot of changes that are happening in the Air Force and particularly in the arena of space," Arnold said.

Originally established as the Space Test and Experimentation Program Office in 1992, Det. 12 was later renamed the SMC Test and Evaluation Directorate.

Col. James Neumeister is the first commander of Det. 12 and inherits the diverse accomplishments of three pioneering space and missile programs: the Rocket Systems Launch Program, the DoD Space Test Program and the Research and Development Space and Missile Operations Program.

"This is a very special day in our unit's history," Neumeister said. "We are building on yesterday's heritage to ensure the success of tomorrow's horizons."

The Rocket Systems Launch Program, chartered in 1972 by the Secretary of Defense as the single Department of Defense agency to provide booster management and launch support for developmental programs, has successfully launched over 535 sounding rockets and ballistic missiles.

The DoD Space Test Program, chartered in 1965 by the Secretary of Defense, provides space flight for advanced DoD research and development experiments not able to fund their own flights. STP has since successfully flown over 400 technologies.

The RDSMO provides operations support to boosters and on-orbit space vehicles.



Photo by Keith Wi

Detachment 12 commander Col. James Neumeister, left, presents a T-shirt bearing the logo of the newly activated detachment to SMC commander Lt. Gen. Brian Arnold.

From its inception as part of the Air Force Satellite Control Facility, through its activities with the Consolidated Space Test Center, RDSMO has provided over three decades of continuous support to space missions with over 250 deployed operations worldwide.

Joining the umbrella of Det. 12 is the Kirtland AFB segment of the Space Based Laser Program. SBL builds on more than 20 years of research and investment by the nation in the development of directed energy weapon systems, technologies and related facilities.

"The past experience and current capabilities in the planning, building, launching and operating of unique space and missile systems make Det. 12 America's premier source for getting technology to space for the warfighter," Neumeister said.

Base water deemed safe

The water supplied to Los Angeles AFB and Fort MacArthur has been deemed safe, according to base officials and the three local water companies that service the area. An annual consumer confidence report regarding water quality was published last week which says the water supply meets all state and federal drinking water standards.

Copies of the report can

be accessed on the Internet at the following locations:

For housing, go to www.ladwp.com/water/ quality. For El Segundo "Area A" and the Lawndale Annex, check out www.aswater.com/ water_quality_reports.htm. For "Area B," go to www.mwd.dst.ca.us/ index.htm. For additional information, contact Staff Sgt. Doug Fritts at 363-2215.

'Town Hall' meeting set for Tuesday at Fort MacArthur Community Center

Got something on your mind? Or maybe you'd just like to find out what's new with housing, the commissary, medical clinic, the BX or the fitness center. On Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. at the Fort MacArthur Community Center, all personnel assigned to Los Angeles AFB will be able to ask questions, get information and meet new Space and Missile

Systems Center commander Lt. Gen. Brian Arnold as he and 61st ABG commander Col. Phil Parker host a Town Hall meeting.

"A town hall is a great way to find out what's on the minds of the folks in our community," said Lt. Col. Terry Regan, deputy commander of the 61 ABG. "I'd like to encourage everyone to attend this event.

The only way we can meet the needs of our people is to find out what those needs are."

Los Angeles AFB leadership will discuss plans and concerns with the housing community and many other issues. Residents will get a chance to have their concerns and needs addressed and ideas heard. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

'Warrior Week' injects Air Force veteran with pride

By Chief Master Sgt. Lew Monroe 6th Air Refueling Wing

My wife silently held the phone and let me ramble on and on with endless excitement like a small child calling his grand-parents on a Christmas morning to describe every toy he'd gotten and how they all work. I was calling her from Lackland AFB, Texas, where I had just been blessed with the opportunity to speak to the Air Force's newest airmen during the culminating ceremony of Warrior Week.

It was without a doubt the most humbling experience in my career. I had just taken a behind-the-scenes look at the Air Force's basic military training environment and am here to tell you indeed: No one comes close!

From the minute we entered the gates, an air of professionalism and dedication consumed us. There was a sense of pride and devotion in every training instructor, support person and civilian we encountered, and they were all happy to show off their "product."

Our protocol representative was a super sharp noncommissioned officer from Dawson, Ga., Tech. Sgt. Darrell Harris, and he epitomized the image of what we need our new trainees to see upon entering BMT. He had a razor-sharp uniform, deep commanding voice and a love for the Air Force words can't explain.

Everywhere he took us, you could see the pride in his eyes as he explained in detail every aspect of basic military training. We started our once-in-alifetime trip by witnessing the arrival of new trainees to the BMT reception center. Still in civilian clothes, they were given their first orders, and I think they all realized their worlds were truly about to change. The next day, we received in-depth briefings and tours of the entire BMT process. First was a "life according to the chief" chat

with Chief Master Sgt. Billy Blackburn, superintendent of the 737 BMT Group. The chief assured us what we would see during our visit was not a dogand-pony show, emphasizing the dedication of the instructor corps, hard work and sweat expended by the trainees and the vision of the officers are everyday occurrences in the BMT world. The chief's words came to light as we walked through the Warrior Week site and saw firsthand just how hard the young trainees were working and, more than that, the leadership and compassion of the instructors. Every trainee we interacted with displayed the discipline and bearing we strive to see in all members of our profession. They were being challenged and they were succeeding. I can only attribute that to one thing, outstanding leaders who truly care about the trainee's success.

It made me wonder what we're doing for these airmen when they reach the operational Air Force. As I shared dinner in a tent with five of our new airmen, I was astounded to hear just how much they enjoyed the challenges and hard work required of them in order to become a part of the Air Force.

As hard as it may be for you to believe, you'll just have to trust me when I say they are working harder in BMT and it requires more to become an airman than when I joined over 20 years ago.

Consider these tidbits: BMT is a solid six days a week, compared with five days and two hours of drill on Saturday when I came in. There is no use of tobacco products while in BMT. Physical conditioning is really physical now, and failure to complete the PC requirements means a ticket back home. Now we have airmen in "zero-week," those few days in the abyss for new trainees awaiting the start of the next training cycle. Guess what: they're starting to learn BMT tasks and becoming acclimated. Gone are the days of your training instructor simply throwing a shirt at you. Now we have professional tailors and quality control experts on site, measuring uniforms to provide a true professional appearance.

Close your eyes and imagine yourself standing behind a podium looking into the eyes of 700 or so of the Air Force's newest airmen. As you finish speaking, you walk down to shake their hands and welcome them into the Air Force.

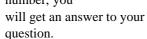
Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA" is playing in the background, the airmen are drenched in sweat and streaming tears cover their faces. They cannot hold back the emotion of completing Warrior Week. It was hard but rewarding and now they are airmen in the Air Force.

I saw the pride in the faces of tomorrow's Air Force. I saw them cry, and I cried with them. Mine eyes have seen the glory, and "No One Comes Close!"

Action Line 363-2255

The Action Line is your direct link to Col. Phil Parker, 61st Air Base Group commander. Its purpose is to make Los Angeles AFB a better place to live and work. If you have an issue that needs to be resolved, discuss it first with your supervisor or First Sergeant. Call the Action Line at 363-2255 if you can't find a solution through

your chain
of command. Your
call will be
recorded
and, if you
leave your
name and
number, you



Base Exchange – David Clore	640-0129
Base IG – Lt. Col. John Woodcock	363-0802
Base Safety Office	363-3048
Chaplain – Lt. Col. Gary Garvey	363-1956
Civil Engineering – Capt. Bo Bloomer	363-5126
Commissary – Al Cherry	363-6140
Comm. Sqd. – Lt. Col. Lori South	363-0798
Equal Employment Opportunity Program Office –	

Equal Employment Opportunity Program Office -Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline 363-2020 Logistics - Maj. Ronald Graham 363-0351 Mission Support – Lt. Col. Maureen Hurley 363-1230 Military Equal Opportunity Office –

eational vehicles overnight at Fort MacArthur. My concern is that RVs cannot be parked temporarily overnight outside the storage lot to help families when an early morning departure is planned. Why can't RVs be parked at Fort Mac for just a few hours?

A: Current policy requires vehicles over 1.5 tons to get a permit to park on Los Angeles AFB property. These restrictions are necessary because of limited parking and narrow streets. Residents also complain about truck noise. To avoid these problems and minimize cost and inconvenience to RV owners, the RV lot is available 24 hours-per-day.

Astro News

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For advertising information or space reservations, call Gail at 661-945-5634.

Submit news to: SMC.PA.ASTRONEWS@ LOSANGELES.AF.MIL Call 363-0303 for more information.

2002 Board schedule

The Air Force has announced the schedule for selection boards convening in calendar year 2002. Due to fluctuations in end strengths, the dates are subject to change. Some of the highlights of the 2002 selection board calendar are as follows:

The senior master sergeant board meets Jan. 23 – Feb. 8. The captains and majors board meets Feb. 19 – March 1 and Oct. 3-12. A line and judge advocate general captain board meets June 10-14. Enlisted supplemental boards meet July 29 – Aug. 2 while command screening boards meet Sept. 10-20.

A medical and dental corps majors, lieutenant colonels and colonels board meets Oct. 28 – Nov. 8.

A colonels board will be held from Nov. 12-22 while the lieutenant colonels board will meet Dec. 2 - 20.

For additional information, contact Capt. Ramona Vallery at 363-3801.

Leadership classes

A Leadership Effectiveness Series, developed by the Office of Personnel Management, will be available at the Los Angeles AFB with the first class scheduled for next week.

"Selection Interviews" will be presented July 19 from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. in Room 1330 of Building 100. This class is recommended for managers, selecting officials and human resources staff involved in conducting a selection interview.

"Retention Management and Managing Generation X" will be presented Aug. 30 from 8:30 a.m. until noon in Room 1330 of Building 100.

"Leadership Competencies" will be presented Sept. 12 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. in Room 1330 of Building 100.

No reservations are needed to attend. For more information, contact Jill Koltz at 363-0733, or the Human Resources Office at 363-0375.

Manage your anger

Get a grip on your anger by attending an Anger Management Class Wednesdays from 11 a.m. until 12:30. Call 363-1251 to get class dates.

Parents, teens reminded to follow curfew rules

By Christine Thumser Public Affairs Intern

A City of Los Angeles curfew, in effect for decades and enforced by the 61st Security Forces Squadron, requires all military housing family members under the age of 18 to be inside their homes between the hours of 10 p.m. until 5:30 a.m. If a minor is found outside after curfew hours, 61 SFS is required to take the individual into custody until a parent or legal guardian signs for their release.

"A curfew is necessary to help provide and maintain safety," said 61 SFS security specialist Vernon Utley. "We ask that teens abide by the Los Angeles curfew as a way of ensuring they and others will be kept safe. The curfew isn't new to Los Angeles AFB, but families need to be reminded during the summer. Some families are new while others might have simply forgotten about the regulations."

Utley understands that some teens might think this policy is too harsh and forces teens inside too early. He recognizes that during school vacation teens have lots of energy. There is some room for flexibility within the curfew policy. If a teen needs to be out past curfew due

to work or other circumstances, parents are asked to notify the security officer on duty by calling 363-2124.

"This is a local ordinance for the City of Los Angeles and it has also been included in Space and Missile Systems Center Instruction 31-110. Our officers are required to enforce the curfew regulations," said Tech. Sgt. Michael Vance of 61 SFS. "Of course, if a 15-year-old is out walking a dog with their parent past curfew hours, it doesn't apply to them. Parents are really the ones in control."

Other exceptions to the curfew policy exist, but they are specific. A minor is exempt

from curfew when attending a supervised youth event such as a school dance, or returning directly home from such an event. In addition, the minor is also excused if responding to an emergency such as a medical problem, fire, natural disaster or automobile accident.

Off-base penalties for violating curfew can be huge, Vance said.

"If a minor is apprehended off-base for violating curfew, there can be a fine of up to \$500, imprisonment for six months, or both. It's serious business," he said. For more information, contact Vance at 363-1852.

El Segundo CDC has openings for first time in decade

By Christine Thumser Public Affairs Intern

The Child Development Center in El Segundo's "Area B" has openings. It's the first time in 10 years that everyone on the waiting list has been accomodated. The CDC provides care for children from six weeks to 5 years. There are currently two vacancies in the 3- to 5-year-old group and three openings in the 6-weeks to 6-months category.

CDC director Barbara Parish suspects the openings are a direct result of the numerous family moves seen this summer. This availability does not include the Fort MacArthur CDC, which serves as an annex for the El Segundo branch. However, mobility is possible, if space permits, to have the child moved to El Segundo.

The CDC plans activities throughout the year to occupy the day. Every other Friday this summer, the older children participate in "swim day" where they are supervised by lifeguards and teachers while they learn to swim and play in the base pool. "Water play" is available for toddlers to play in



Photo by Paul Testern

From left to right: Lilli Gomez, Amanda Leister, Ilene Lutap, Christopher Tautalo, Leeann Cepeda, and Cameron Carter want everyone to know there are vacancies at the Child Development Center.

sprinklers in the back yard area of the CDC. "Shoot to Hoop," a favorite with the children, occurs every Tuesday at the base fitness center and teaches basketball skills to the 3- to 5-year-old children. The highlight activity for the summer is a planned fieldtrip to the Los

Angeles City Zoo.

"Activities are essential for the growth and development of the children. We'd also like to increase the involvement of parents. We currently have parents who volunteer for story time, on the last Wednesday of every month. We'd like to get more involvement from parents," Parish said.

The CDC has other activities planned and is always looking for volunteers. To volunteer to lend a hand in one of the activities or to register your child for one of the rare vacancies at the CDC, call 363-1792.



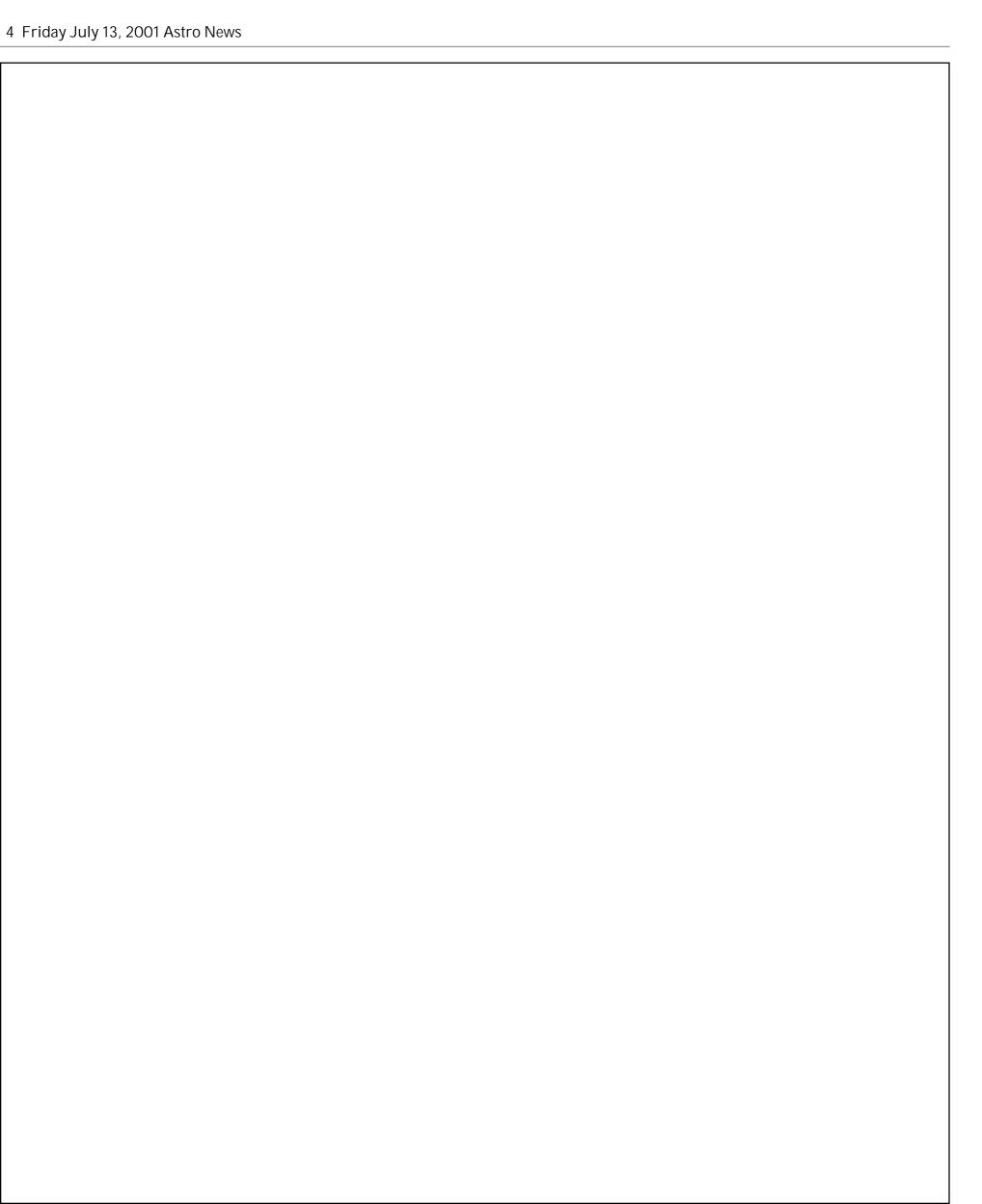
Tops in Blue to perform

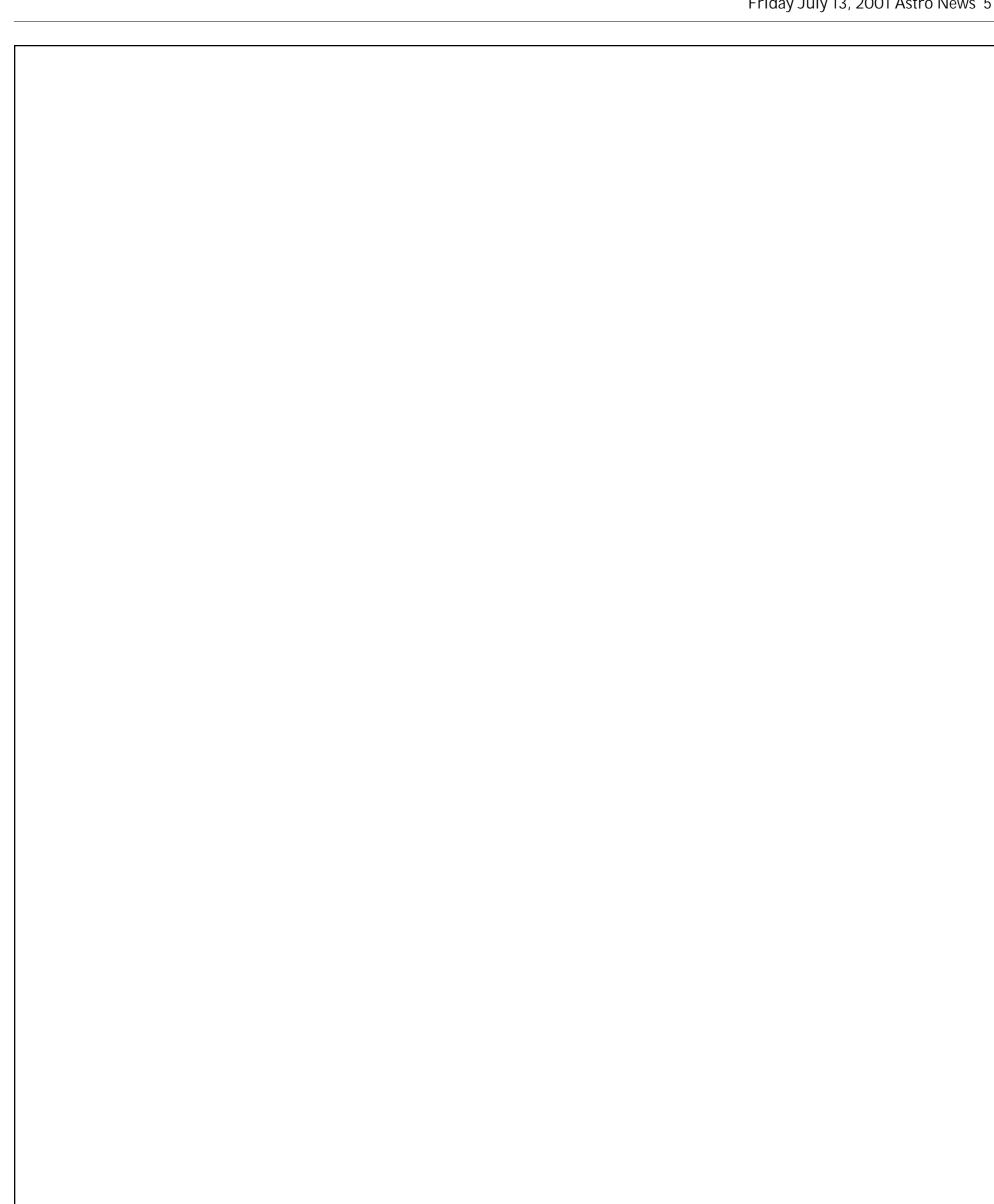
The U.S. Air Force's Tops in Blue will perform at the Fort MacArthur parade ground on Friday at 8:30 p.m. The 2001 Tops in Blue show, the Magic of Music, is a spectacular medley of songs guaranteed to captivate audiences of all generations.

Tops in Blue is the Air Force's premier entertainment

showcase," said Tom Edwards, show producer and chief of Air Force Entertainment. "The new 2001 team is a reflection of the 'best of the best' performers throughout the Air Force."

For more info, contact Iris Alexander at 363-0430.





Civilian work force still a hot issue

By Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Air Force continues to take steps to ensure the sustainability of its civilian work force, Air Force officials said.

As the major command with the largest civilian population — more than 57,000 members — Air Force Materiel Command is taking the lead in the service's civilian work forceshaping efforts.

Although very experienced and capable of accomplishing the mission, the Air Force's civilian work force is "out of balance," officials said.

"We have a very low number of younger employees, only 25 percent are age 40 or below, and a much larger number are nearing retirement age," said Polly Sweet, AFMC's human resources division chief. "Taking into account both optional and early retirements, more than 62 percent of the civilian work force will be eligible to retire by the end of 2005."

To avoid future readiness concerns, the service must start bringing in new people now to have them trained and ready to replace the more experienced people as they retire, Sweet said.

The AFMC work forceshaping office is developing initiatives for the Air Force that target recruitment, training, retention and managed separation of civilian employees.

One such initiative is giving entrance and exit interviews to employees. These interviews will be given to new employees after 120 days of employment, and then again to separating employees. The information from these interviews will be used to help the Air Force identify problem areas and improve its processes.

The Air Force is also increasing the annual number of centrally funded interns by 120 and is trying to fund a "co-op" program that will include up to 500 positions, complementing the service's active college and job fair recruiting efforts.

To further augment the accession of new employees, the Air Force is looking for ways to streamline its civilian hiring process.

"Too many times we lose candidates because we have

such a cumbersome process that often takes months from the time applicants submit their resume to the time they hear from us," Sweet said.

"We now face a situation where many of the skills for which we are looking to hire — engineers, skilled mechanics and business majors — are in high demand from industry," she said. "In many cases, there isn't a large enough supply of skilled candidates coming through the pipeline compared to the demand. It's important to improve our process to be competitive."

Despite its best efforts, the Air Force can only hire as many people as it loses.

"We generally can't bring new people into our work force until someone retires," Sweet said. "If the bulk of our work force retire at the same time, we will have a tremendous number of vacancies to be filled, and not enough mid-career employees trained to perform missioncritical duties."

Although the civilian force is "out of balance" now, Air Force officials do not expect the work force of the future to undergo a similar crisis.

Astro News deadlines

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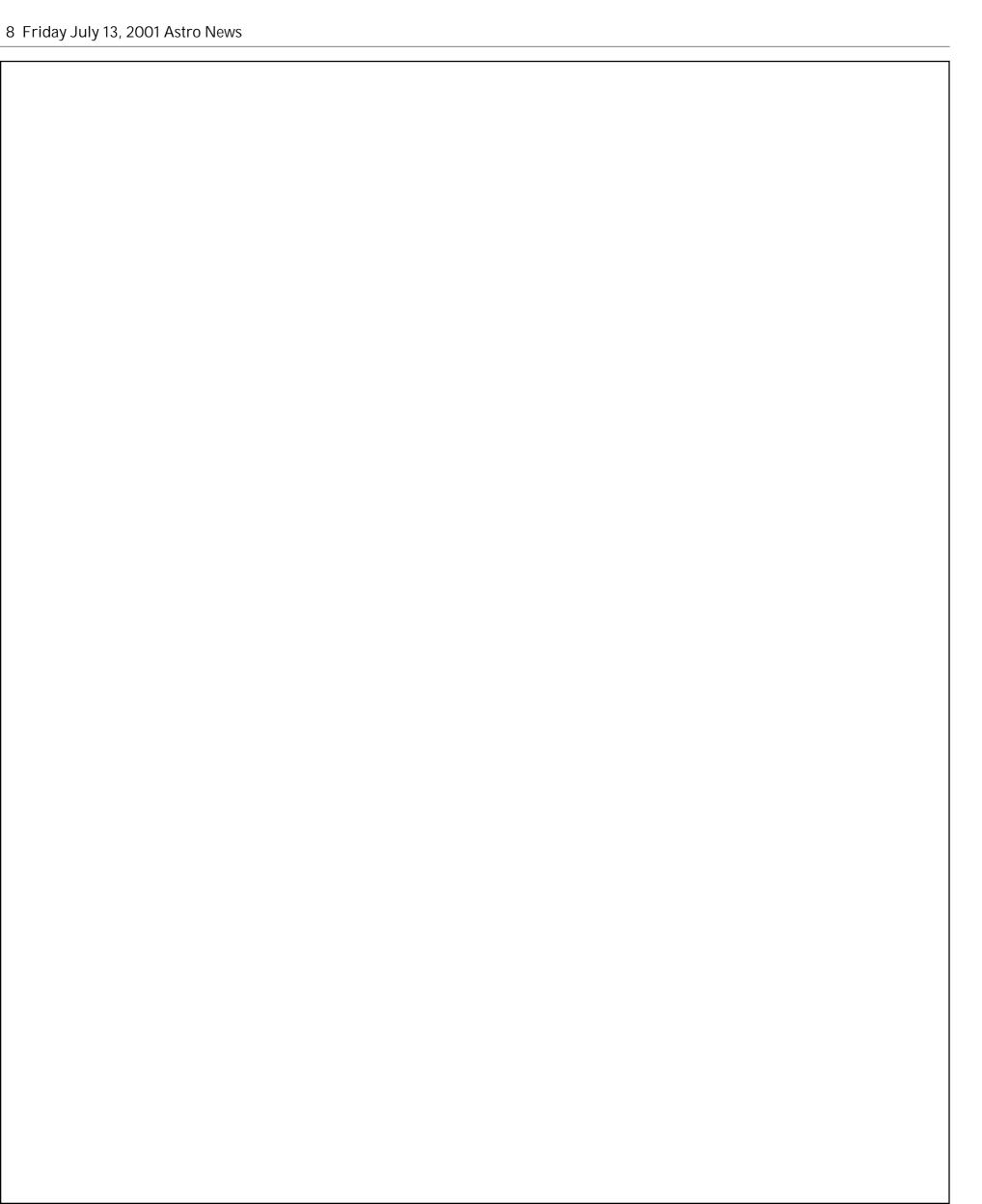
Publication date Submission dates July 27 July 20 Aug. 10 Aug. 3 Aug. 24 Aug. 17 Sept. 7 Aug. 31 Sept. 21 Sept. 14 Oct. 5 Sept. 28

'Mock board' prepares airmen for real thing

Senior Airman James Bennett, a referrals technician with the 61st Medical Squadron, sits under the scrutiny of a "mock board" as he prepares to compete for Airman of the Quarter. The members of the board were, from left to right, Staff Sgt. Ivan Suarez, Senior Master Sgt. Brent Carter, and Tech. Sgt. Leon Thomas. They drilled Bennett with questions about Air Force history and customs, and even asked him to discuss current events. For more information on participating in a "mock board" contact Suarez, the Base Enlisted Association president, at 363-0965. "The difference in winning a board is in your preparation and presentation. You need to go into the board knowing you can win," Carter



Photo by Joe Davidso



Pet care a challenge in summer heat

1st Lt. Sonya Young Advanced Systems Directorate

Pets are an awesome responsibility. I've spent many hours with the American Kennel Club training my two dogs. When I was getting started, I was surprised to learn how many things I was doing wrong with the care and training of my dogs, especially in the hot summer. Chances are, unless you've been through some formal pet training, you're doing things wrong with your pet as well.

I am very passionate about the well-being of canines. Your pet communicates by tail wagging, barking and facial expressions. The more time you spend with your pet, the easier it will be to communicate.

Some families get pets to

help teach children responsibility. While this might sound like a good idea, in fact, the American Kennel Club recommends that you never buy a pet for this purpose, unless an adult is ultimately ready to take care of the pet when and if the child can not. Taking care of a dog is a big responsibility. However, the benefit of your hard work is unconditional love for years to come.

Since training with the AKC, my desire to help dogs and their owners has grown. Most of the time we just don't realize that what we are doing is not healthy for our pets. Arming yourself with information before you bring home a pet will save you and your pet hours of frustration. Enjoy the summer with your pet and make it a healthy, happy one. The American

Kennel Club provides the following recommendations to help ensure your canine's safety during the summer months:

- Never leave your dog unattended in direct sunlight or in a closed vehicle.
- Insects such as fleas, ticks and mosquitoes can carry harmful diseases and bacteria.
 Ensure your pet is current on all immunizations.
- Heartworm tablets, flea control medicines, and special shampoos can help your pet fight parvo, distemper and heartworm disease.
- If you take your pet to the beach, make sure you bring plenty of fresh water. In addition, your pet can be sensitive to the sun.
- Hot sand and asphalt can burn your canine's paws. Try to stay off both.



Photo by Joe Davidson

Tyler Robinson, with Nikki, Tigger and Snuggles, takes a break from walking the trio of poodles under the shade of a tree. For more information on dog care in the summer and all year, point your Internet browser to www.akc.org.

Family Child Care

Los Angeles AFB is striving to expand Family Child Care Services in homes of military and retired military members. If you are a spouse who lives either on or off base and are interested in becoming a licensed family child care provider, contact Christina Kobayashi at 363-8334 or stop by the Child Development Center at Fort MacArthur, Building 31.

Current providers: Amy
Gonzalez can provide child care
from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday
through Friday, for children
ages 3 and up on a full, parttime and drop-in basis. For
more information, call 5141938. Johvon Tidwell can
provide child care from 6 a.m.
to 5 p.m., Mondays through
Fridays, for children ages 2 and
up on a full, part-time and dropin basis. For more information,

call 547-9762. Ann Hall has an opening for a child two years or older. Call 832-5673 for more information. Kimberly McClure has an opening for a child two years or older. Call 833-8188 for more information. Kellie Heironimus provides hourly care for children of all ages. Call 833-5751 for more information. Tina Alejandro has an opening for a child two years or older. Call 832-2620 to speak to Tina. Joan Smith has two openings for children two years and older. Call 241-1422 for more information.

The above providers are the only individuals authorized to provide child care in the Fort MacArthur, Pacific Heights and Pacific Crest areas.

In accordance with Air Force Instruction 34-276, persons wishing to provide child care for more than 10 hours per week on a regular basis in base housing must be trained, certified and granted a license by the base commander.

No diving board

The diving board has been removed from the Fort MacArthur pool since it did not comply with Air Force regulations which require a minimum water depth of 10 feet for at least 20 feet from the end of the board. The pool at Fort Mac is 8 feet deep at the 20 foot mark. Services is looking for an activity to take the place of the diving board.

Extended child care

The Child Development Center will implement a new child care initiative to extend the hours of child care to accommodate for extended duty hours. Extended duty is defined as temporary shift change, unplanned weekend duty, shortterm temporary additional duty if no other parent available, dual military or single parent deployment. For more information, contact Iris Alexander at 363-5950.

RV storage

Los Angeles AFB offers two recreational vehicle storage facilities located next to the FamCamp in Lawndale and at Fort MacArthur. Storage fees are between \$20 and \$30 per month.

The Fitness Center

The Fitness Center offers one-on-one free individualized fitness programming. Personal trainers provide the following services: fitness assessments, personal fitness planning, fitness goal setting, programs to lower cholesterol, strength training, cardiovascular training, proper use of equipment and

proper lifting techniques. Individual appointments can be made by calling 363-6815, or you can ask at the front desk for a trainer.

Worship schedule

Roman Catholic: Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturdays at 4 p.m., Mass at 4:30 p.m. Mass at 9 a.m. Sundays.

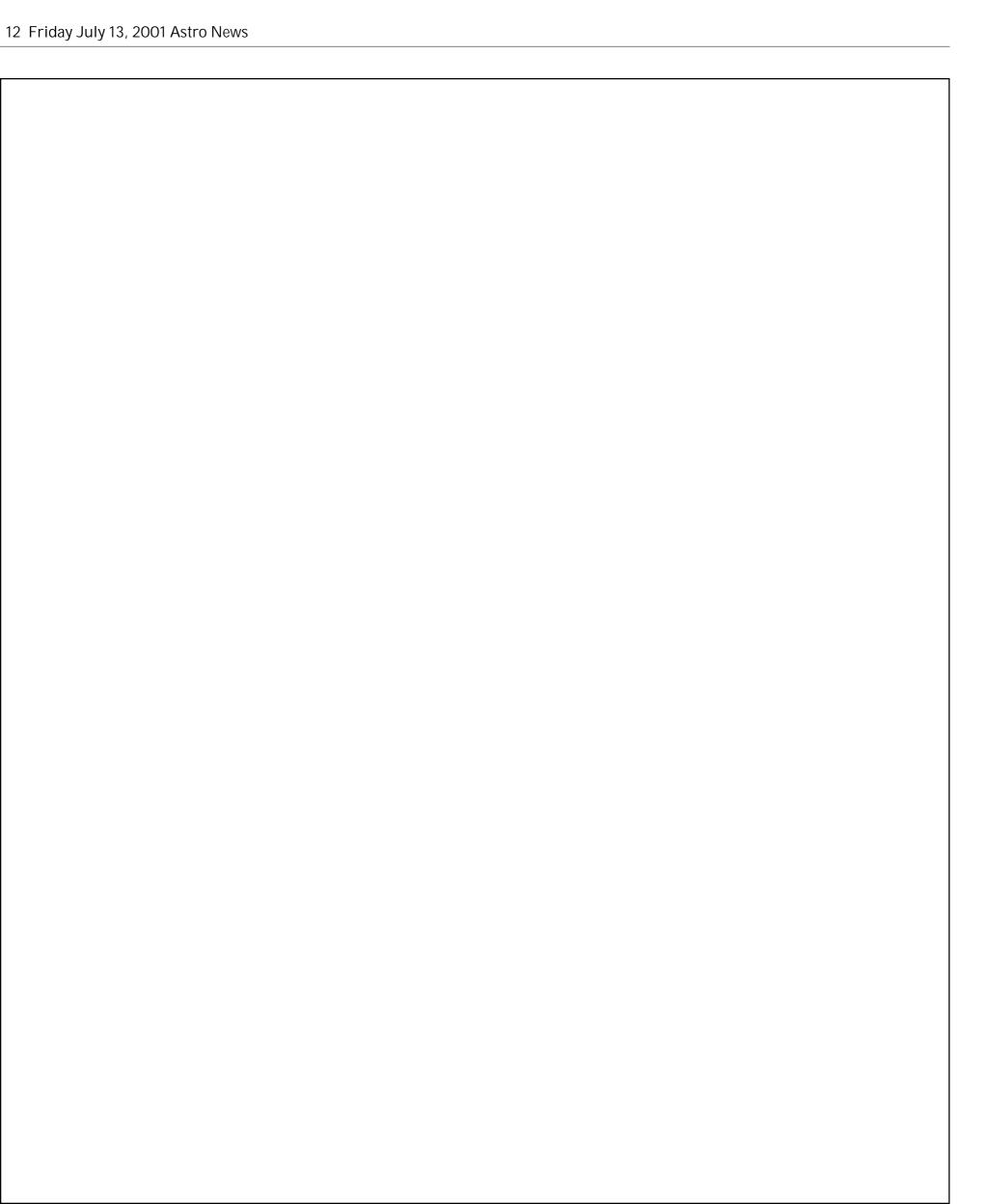
Protestant: General worship at 10:30 a.m. Contact Chaplain (Maj.) Jim Walker at 363-6433 for info.

Vacation Bible School

The Fort MacArthur Chapel is offering an exciting Vacation Bible School Aug. 13-17 in Building 37 on the second floor. Anyone between the ages of 4-years-old to 4th grade is invited. Contact Staff Sgt. Tim Hall for more information or to sign up at 363-5355.

SMC TODAY

Got a good story? The staff of the video program, 'SMC Today', would love to hear about it. To submit story ideas for 'SMC Today', call John Brazelton at 363-6897



Staff Sgt. Andrea Fisher

... is the NCOIC of Records and Reception for the Dental Flight at the 61 Medical Squadron. Fisher is in charge of appointment and duty scheduling from her position at the front desk of the Dental Flight.

When she is not involved in her administrative duties, she takes X-Rays, assists the dentist at chair side, or cleans teeth. Whatever it takes to

Leading L.A. accomplish the mission, she's there.

"I feel my job is important because our airmen can't perform their jobs without good dental health. I help ensure that Los Angeles AFB is continuously meeting mission readiness," she said.

Fisher has been stationed at Los Angeles AFB for about two of her 13 years in the Air Force. She recently was selected for promotion to Technical Sergeant and expects to pin on her new rank in the next few months. Her goal is to complete her Bachelor's degree and get promoted again.

In her off-duty time, the Lexington, Ky., native likes to help the elderly in San Pedro by running errands and visiting them on weekends. She also likes to read, listen to music and watch old movies or sporting events.

